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APPROVED
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AUTHORITY

THE NON-MUTANT SUPER HERO!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

VENOM
IS BACK!



MCFARLANE



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Campbell's Can-Do Puzzle Page

More fun for all kinds of
Campbell's Kids™

What kind of Campbell's Kid™ are you?

1.

Are you a smart kid?

By changing just one letter in each of the words below, you can come up with a list of some of the vegetables in Campbell's® Chicken Alphabet Soup.



PARROT
COIN
PEN
BRAN



2.

Are you a playful kid?

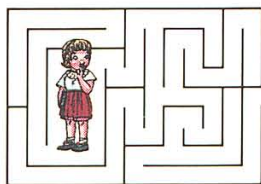
These Campbell's Kids™ are going out to play sports, but one of them doesn't belong with the group. Can you pick him out?



3.

Are you a helpful kid?

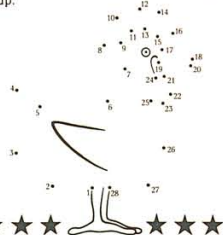
Help the Campbell's Kid™ find her way out of the maze and home in time for lunch.



4.

Are you a curious kid?

Connect the dots and you'll find the perfect ingredient to team up with stars in Campbell's® Soup.



5.

Are you a careful kid?

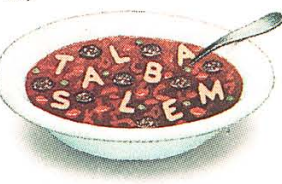
Carefully study this can of Campbell's® Soup and its mirrored reflection. Can you find something wrong with the reflection?



6.

Are you a happy kid?

You will be when you unscramble the letters and discover a delicious part of Campbell's® Alphabet Soup.



ANSWERS

1. CARROT, CORN
2. The kid in the raincoat — he's not dressed for sports
3. Campbell's Kid is not reversed
4. It's a chicken
5. Meatballs



FLA. BRAN

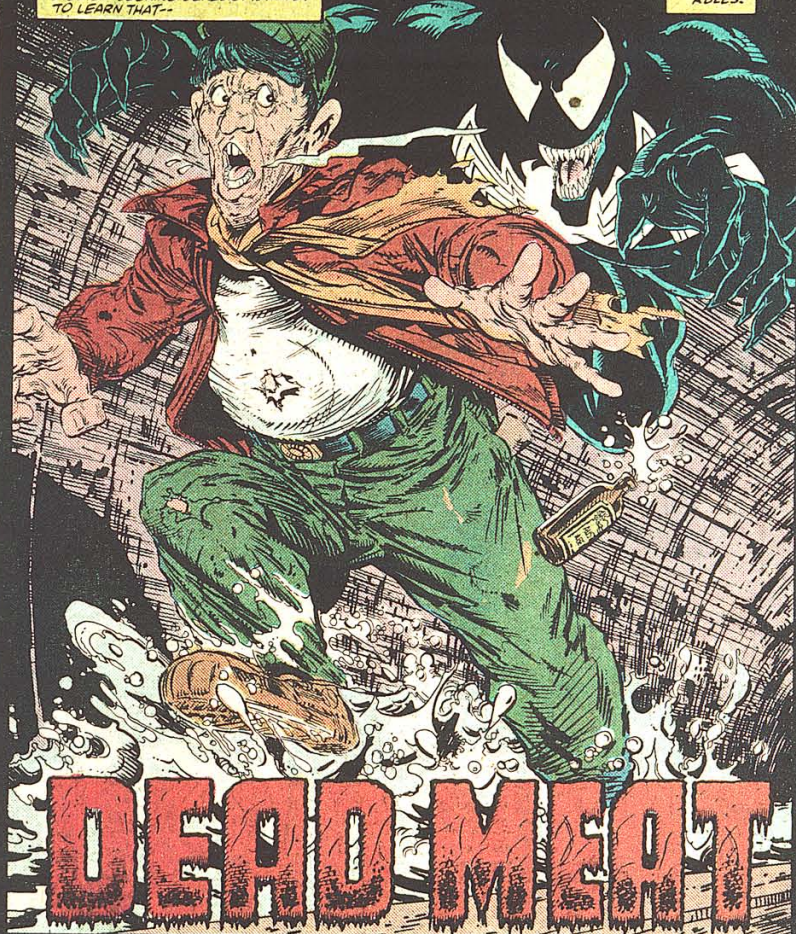


M'm! M'm! Good!™

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

NEW YORK CITY: A LONG-FORGOTTEN SUBWAY TUNNEL WHERE A LUCKLESS, SHELTER-SEEKING DERELICT IS ABOUT TO LEARN THAT--

-- VENOM RULES!



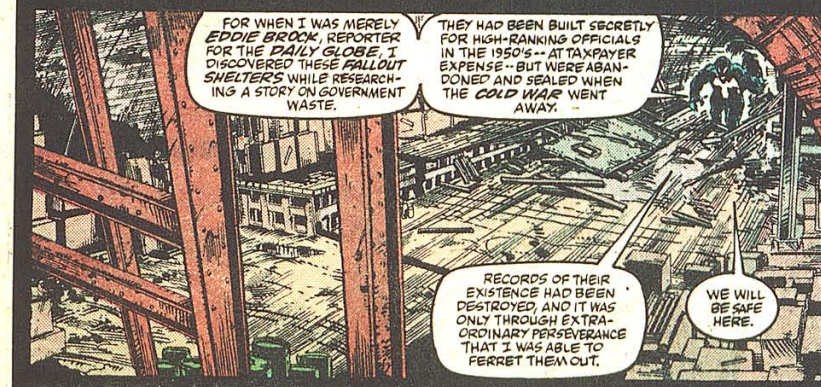
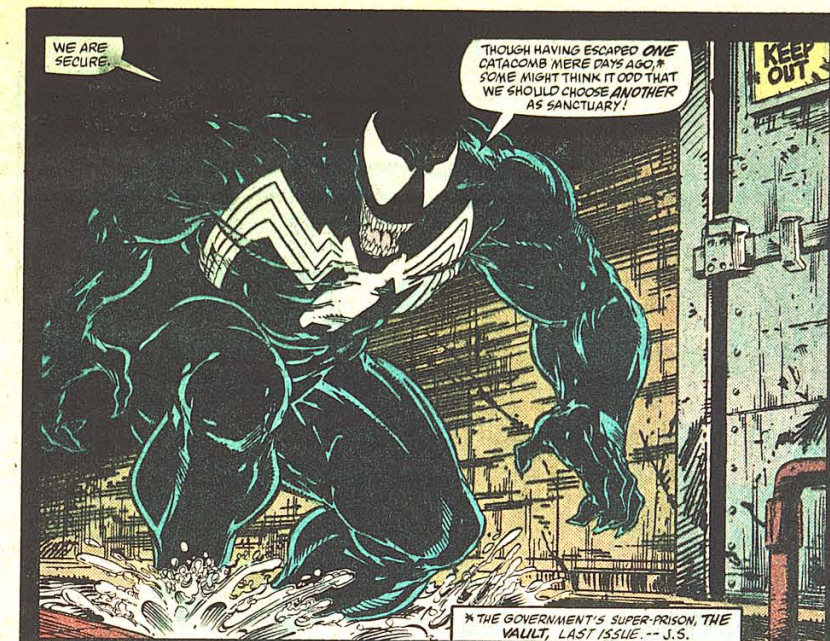
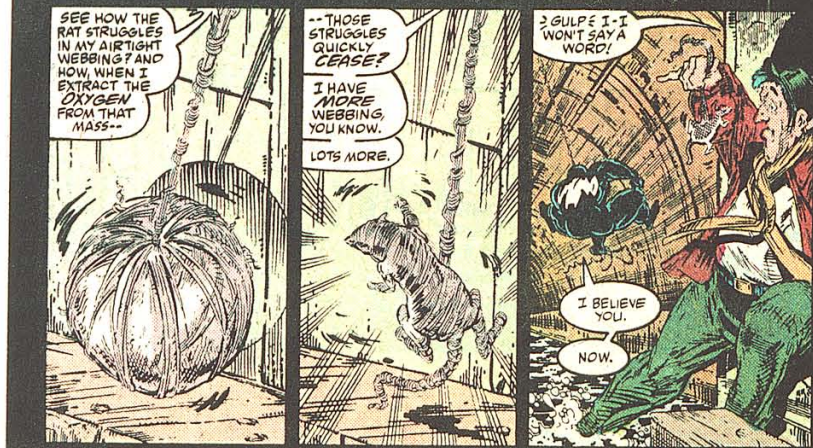
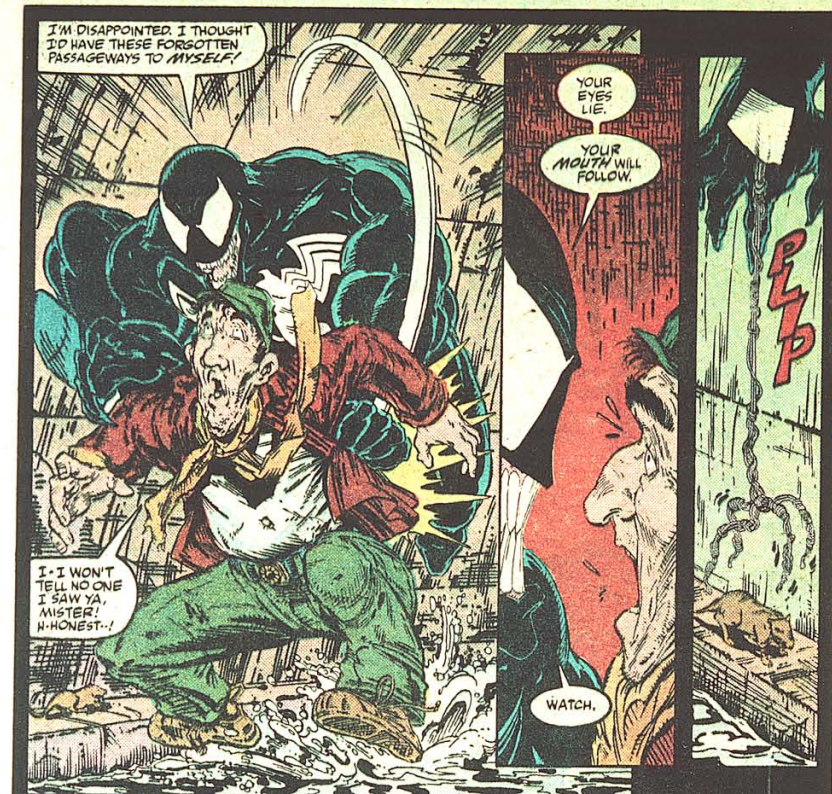
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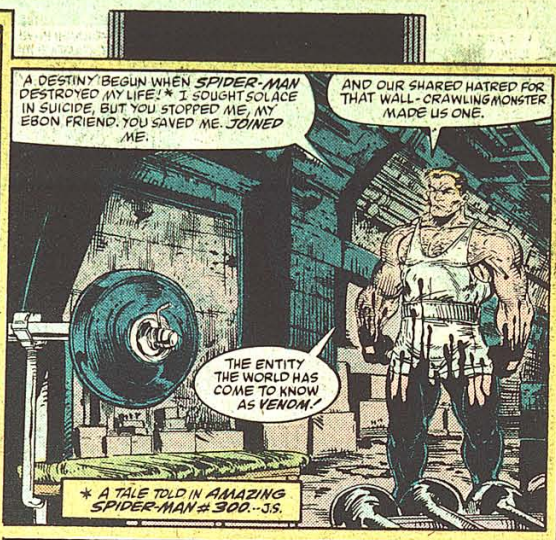
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A DESTINY BEGUN WHEN SPIDER-MAN DESTROYED MY LIFE! * I SOUGHT SOLACE IN SUICIDE, BUT YOU STOPPED ME, MY EGO FRIEND. YOU SAVED ME. JOINED ME.

AND OUR SHARED HATRED FOR THAT WALL-CRAWLING MONSTER MADE US ONE.

THE ENTITY THE WORLD HAS COME TO KNOW AS VENOM!

* A TALE TOLD IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN # 300...J.S.

SAFE TO PURSUE OUR DESTINY!

NOW, WE MUST PREPARE. THESE WEIGHTS ARE RUSTED DUST-COVERED, BUT THEY WILL SUFFICE.

FOR WHILE YOUR POWER IS INHERENT, MY MUSCLES MUST BE EARNED! AND WE MUST BOTH BE AT OUR FULLEST POSSIBLE STRENGTH...



-- SO THAT WE MAY RIP SPIDER-MAN INTO THE SMALLEST POSSIBLE PIECES!

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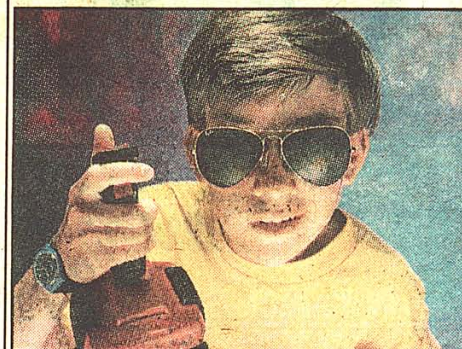
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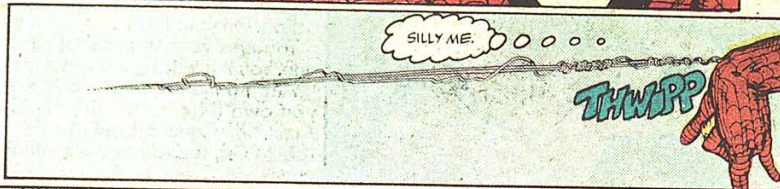
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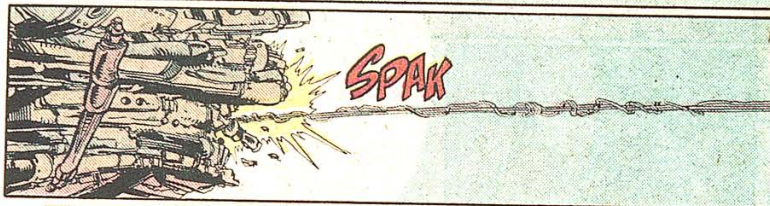


IMAGINE, I
ACTUALLY THOUGHT
SOMETHING MIGHT
GO RIGHT FOR
A CHANGE.



SILLY ME.

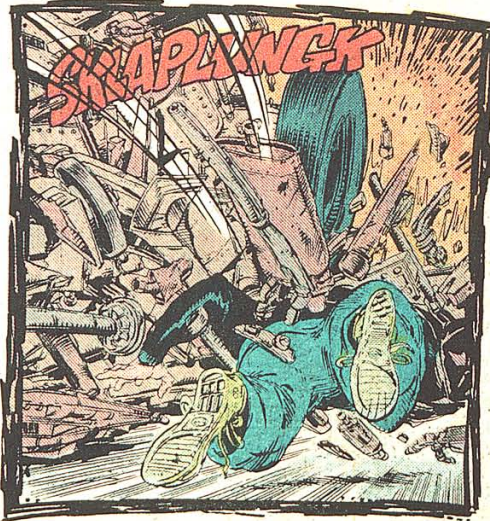
THWIPP



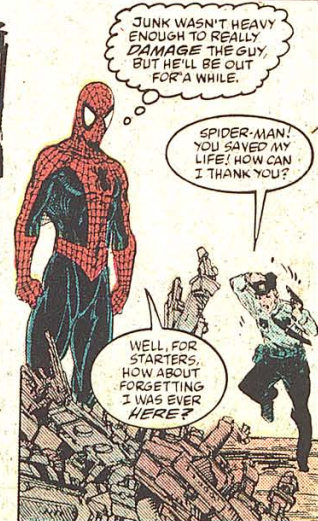
SPAK



SKRRRRRAW



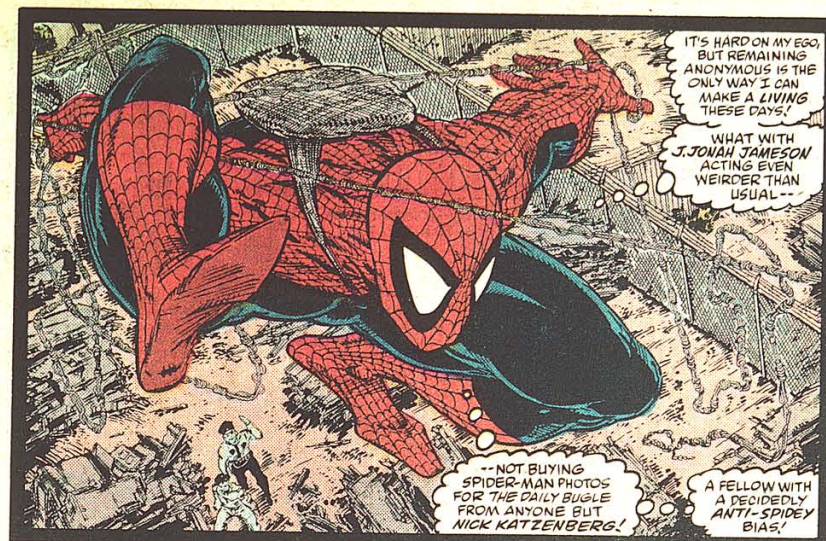
SKAPLWICK



JUNK WASN'T HEAVY
ENOUGH TO REALLY
DAMAGE THE GUY,
BUT HE'LL BE OUT
FOR A WHILE.

SPIDER-MAN!
YOU SAVED MY
LIFE! HOW CAN
I THANK YOU?

WELL, FOR
STARTERS,
HOW ABOUT
FORGETTING
I WAS EVER
HERE?

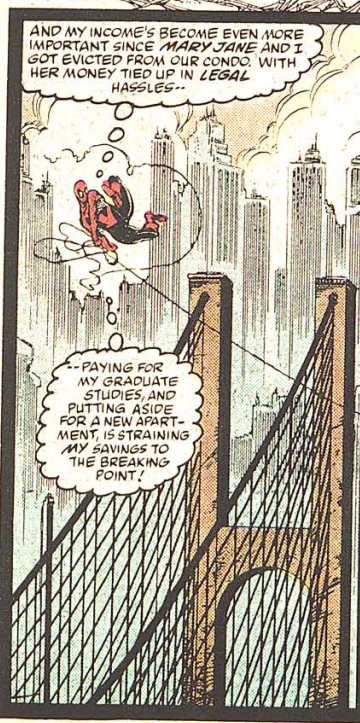


IT'S HARD ON MY EGO,
BUT REMAINING
ANONYMOUS IS THE
ONLY WAY I CAN
MAKE A LIVING
THESE DAYS!

WHAT WITH
J. JONAH JAMESON
ACTING EVEN
WEIRDER THAN
USUAL...

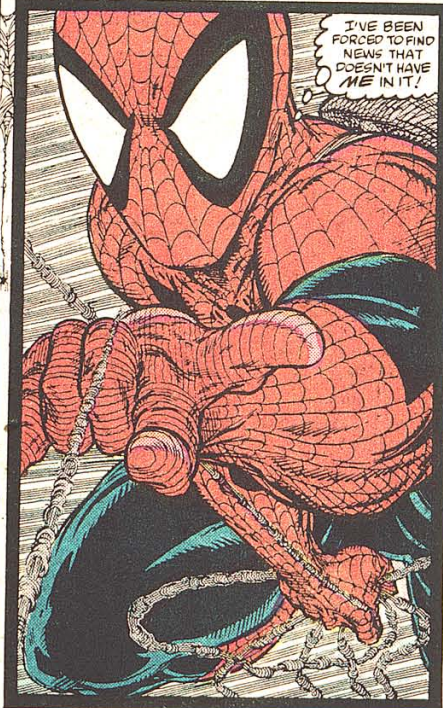
--NOT BUYING
SPIDER-MAN PHOTOS
FOR THE DAILY BUGLE
FROM ANYONE BUT
NICK KATZENBERG!

A FELLOW WITH
A DECIDEDLY
ANTI-SPIDEY
BIAS!



AND MY INCOME'S BECOME EVEN MORE
IMPORTANT SINCE MARY JANE AND I
GOT EVICTED FROM OUR CONDO. WITH
HER MONEY TIED UP IN LEGAL
HASSLES--

--PAYING FOR
MY GRADUATE
STUDIES, AND
PUTTING ASIDE
FOR A NEW APART-
MENT, IS STRAINING
MY SAVINGS TO
THE BREAKING
POINT.



I'VE BEEN
FORCED TO FIND
NEWS THAT
DOESN'T HAVE
ME IN IT!



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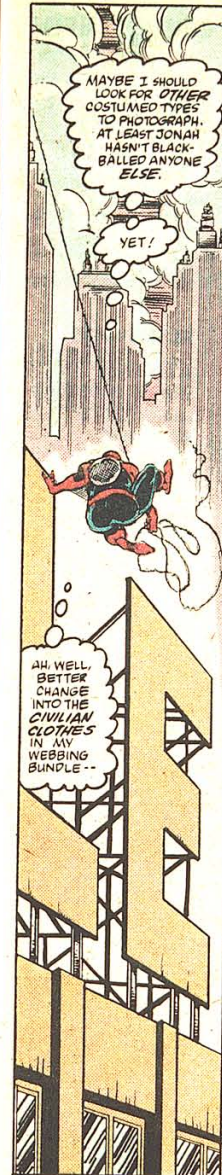
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-- AND LET PETER PARKER PEOPLE HIS WARES!

MAYBE I SHOULD LOOK FOR OTHER COSTUMED TYPES TO PHOTOGRAPH. AT LEAST JONAH HASN'T BLACK-BALLED ANYONE ELSE.

YET!

AN WELL, SETTLER CHANGE INTO THE CIVILIAN CLOTHES IN MY WEBBING BUNDLE--



INSIDE, AT GLORIA GRANT'S WORK STATION...

HI, PETER! HERE ARE THOSE CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICES YOU ASKED ME TO RUN OFF.

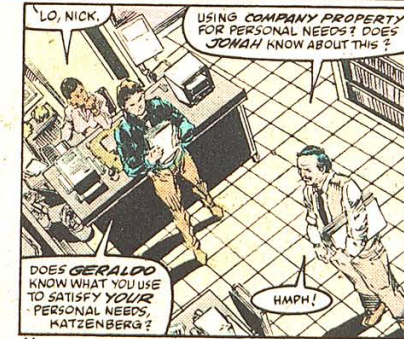
GREAT!



SO HOW'S IT WORKING OUT, LIVING WITH YOUR AUNT MAY AGAIN -- UHF! LATER, PETER, MY LUNCH DATE IS HERE!

OK, GLORY, THANKS FOR THE COPIES.

YOU DIDN'T MAKE THOSE ON THE OFFICE COPIER, DID YOU?



LO, NICK.

USING COMPANY PROPERTY FOR PERSONAL NEEDS? DOES JONAH KNOW ABOUT THIS?

DOES GERALDO KNOW WHAT YOU USE TO SATISFY YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS, KATZENBERG?

HMPH!

SEE PAGE 12 FOR MORE PRODUCTS →



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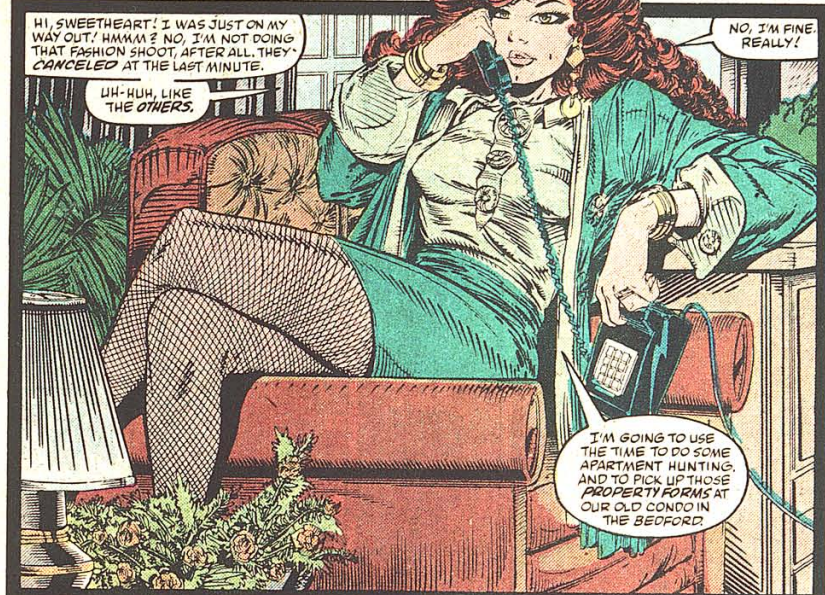
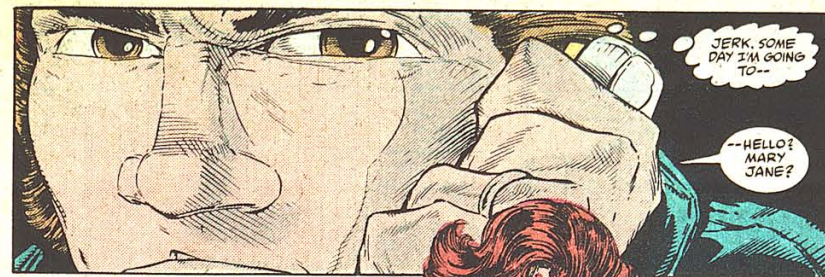
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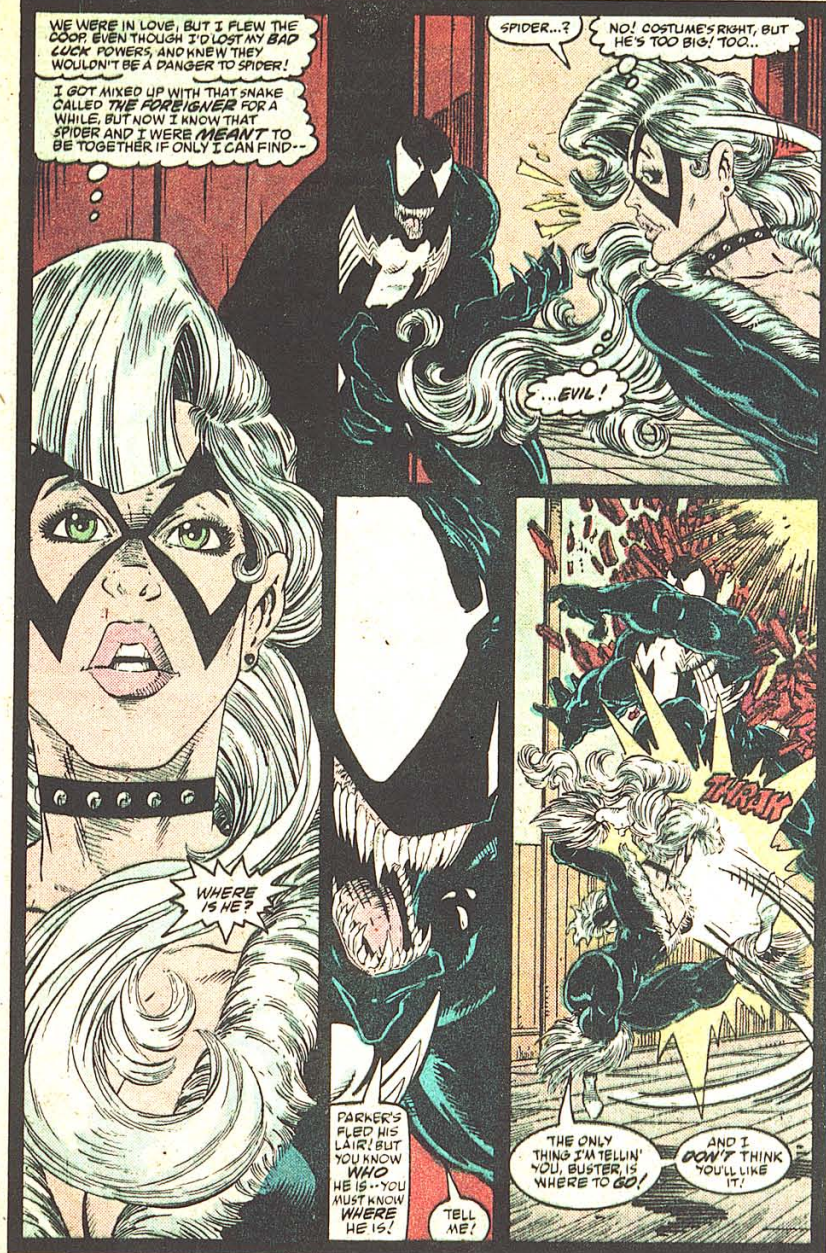
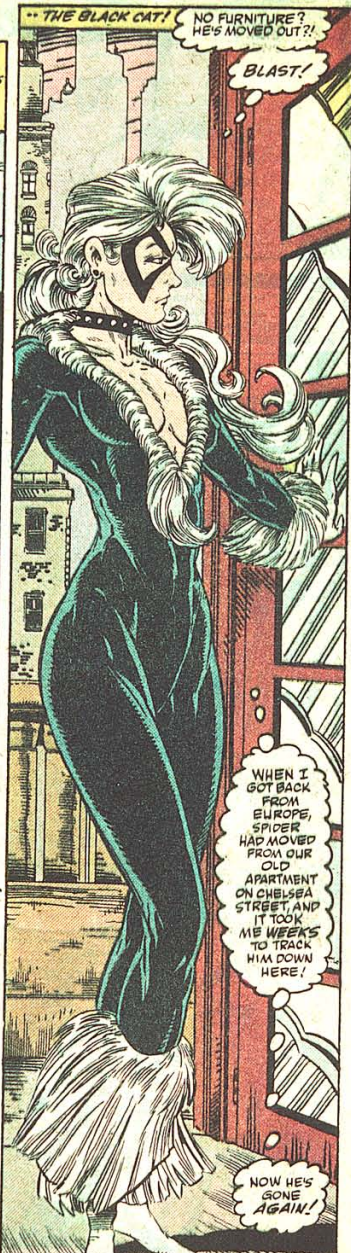
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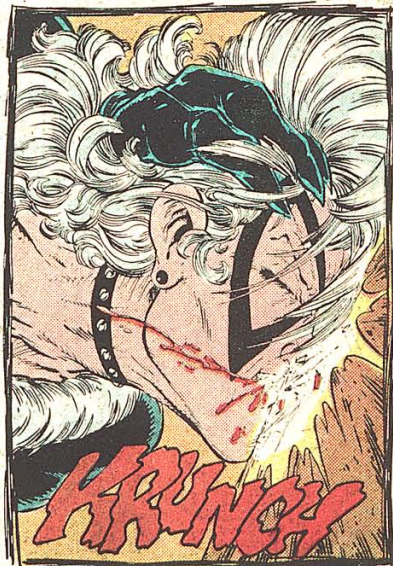
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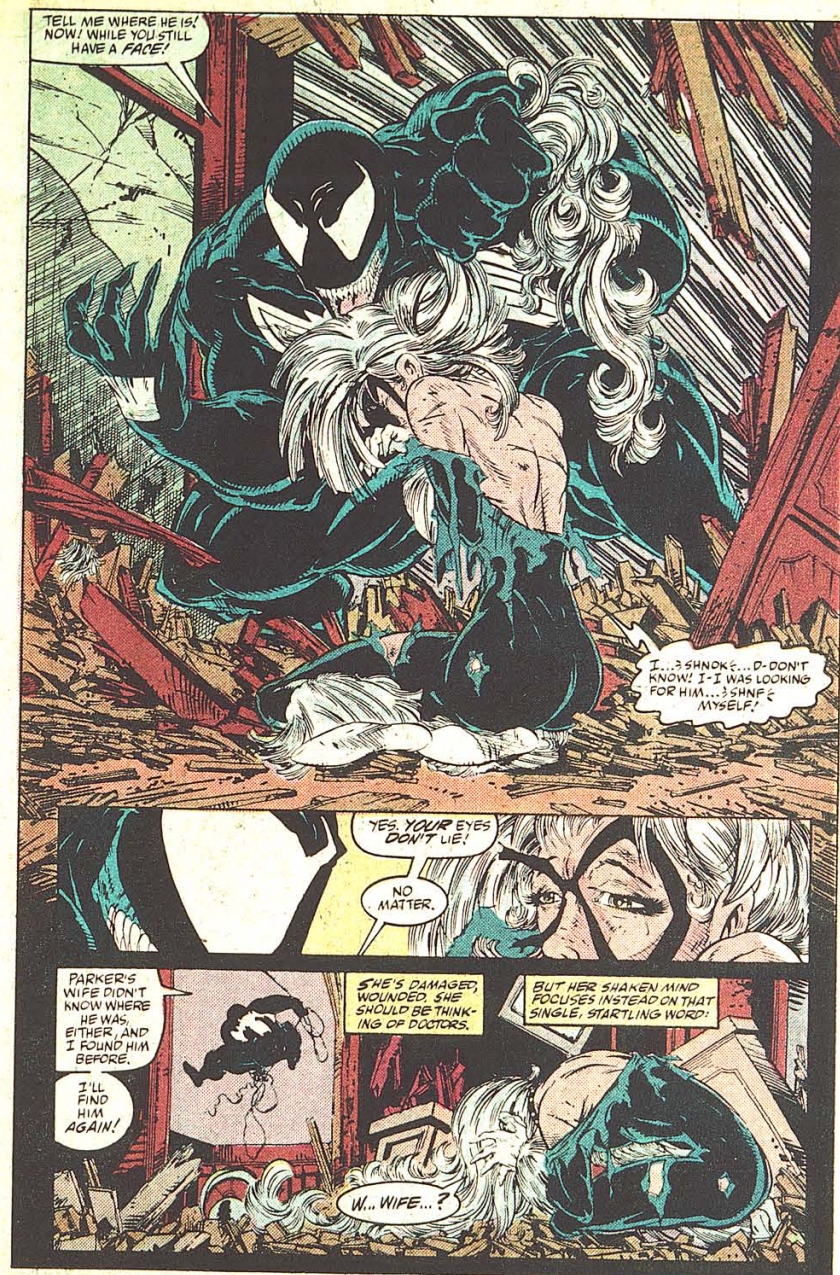
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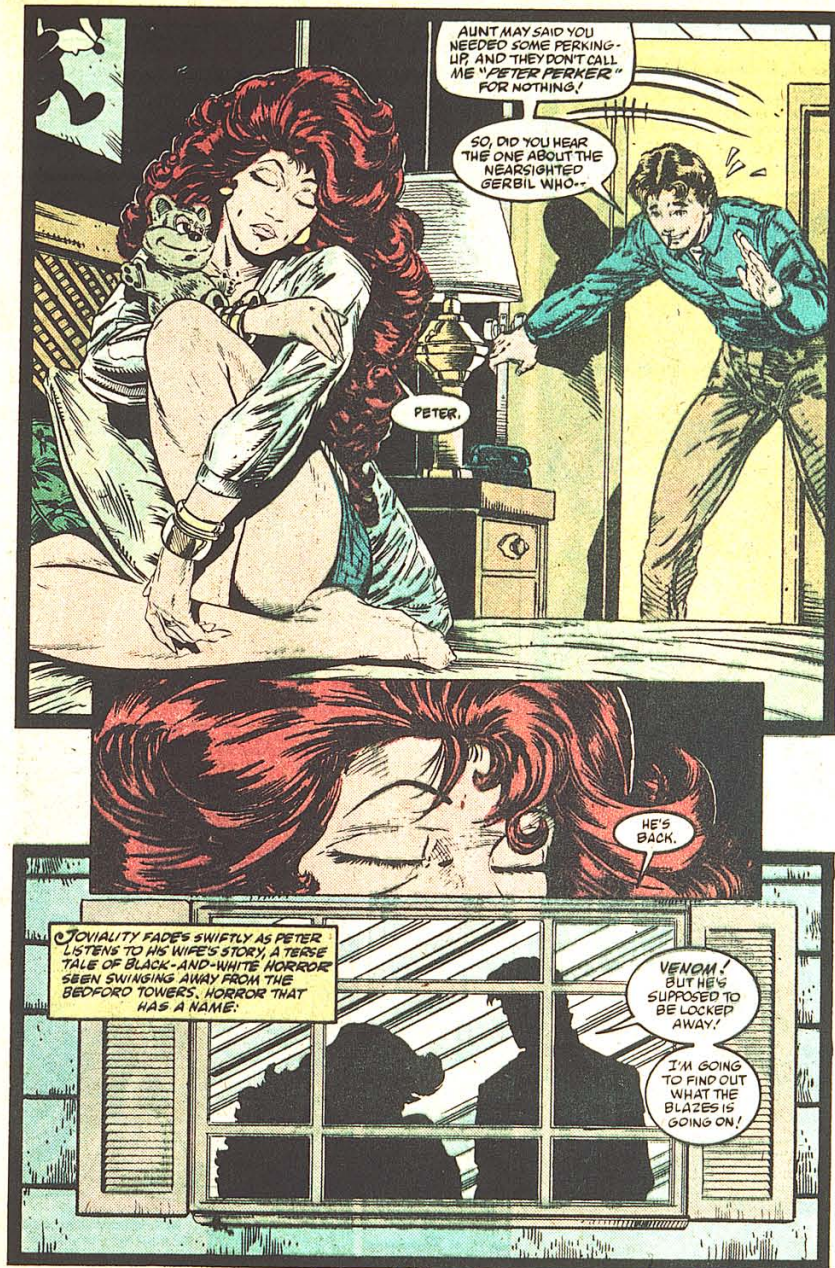


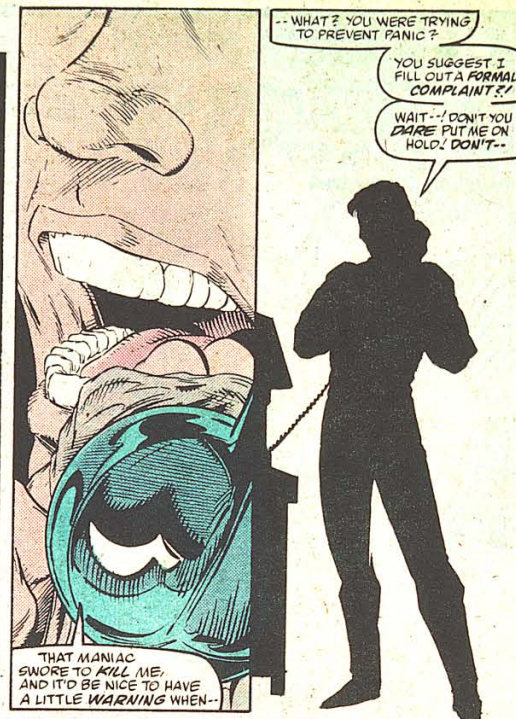


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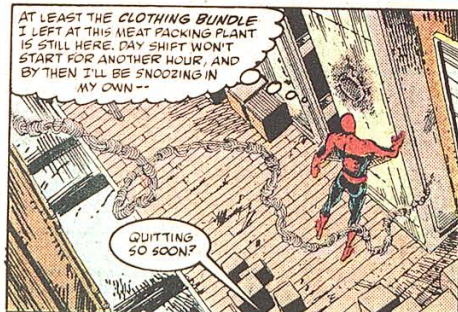
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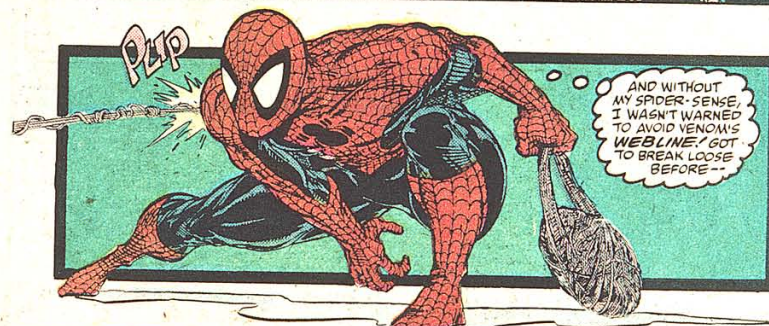
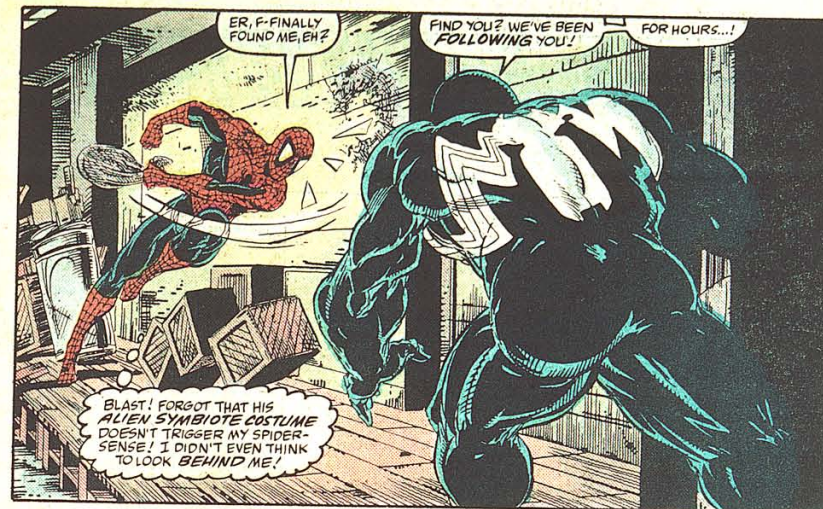
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QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"It's good to be back on home turf kicking the rear ends of a few average low-lives!"

—MOON KNIGHT, MOON KNIGHT #1

ITEM: Everyone loves to hate 'em, now even mixed-up Marvel has gotten into the act! We're talking about TV commercials. You must've seen them by now. One features a kid fixing a back-issue cover of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN to his best buddy (Sheesh, for about the same price he could've bought his pal a Spidey subscription!) and the other stars lovable Lou Ferrigno as the Incredible Hulk trying to rip a pair of Sears pants to shreds, for Pete's sake! Actually, as much as we hate to admit it, they're both kinda fun, and isn't it a kick seeing Spidey and the Hulk back on TV? (As for you continuity freaks, we suggest you only view the next Incredible Hulk TV movie on a black and white television!)

ITEM: Attention, culture lovers! If you happen to live in New York City or thereabouts, you may want to check out the Rude Mechanicals Repertory Group's production of Shakespeare's *Henry V*. Besides presenting such stimulating theatrical events, the group is run by none other than our own Bashful Bob Hall. Bob's been penciling everything from the AVENGERS to the NEW MUTANTS lately, so we have no idea how he managed to find time to present such ambitious productions. Executive Editor Mark Gruenwald

offered this rave review—"I thought it was great! But why did everyone talk like characters out of THOR?" (For more information call: 212-971-5630 or write to New Rude Mechanicals, P.O. Box 2611, Times Square Station, New York, NY 10036.)

ITEM: Let's see, that takes care of television and theater. What's left? Oh, yeah—movies! There's a great new documentary making the rounds at all the important film festivals and it's called *Comic Book Confidential!* Produced and directed by Ron Mann, it's all about the people behind the comics and features our very own fearless leader, Stan (the Man) Lee! Figures! Stan's been hiding out in Hollywood so long, sooner or later some smart producer had to put the big man in a movie! Seriously, though, we hear it's a fabulous film also featuring such giants of the comics field as Robert Crumb, Harvey Kurtzman, Will Eisner, Al Feldstein, William Gaines, Jack Kirby, Frank Miller and more!

ITEM: Which reminds us to offer our congratulations to Frank Miller. Frank's been chosen to write the screenplay for *RoboCop II*, and we couldn't think of a better choice! Good luck, Mr. Miller. And to think, we knew him when.

ITEM: And now the moment we've all been waiting for—the return to the Bullpen Page of—

Stan's Soapbox

Hi, Heroes! This is Stan Lee, which means it's rappin' time! It's great to be back with you again here at the of Soapbox, although it's only been about 15 years since I last invigorated my way into every Bullpen Page. But hey, that's not very long—not if you take a cosmic view of things—and what True Believer doesn't?

Y'know, Marvel must be the most sought-after publishing prize of all time! As you've probably heard, we've just been bought again! Yep, the gallant group that owns world-famous Revlon Cosmetics (among many other companies) outbid a zillion prospective purchasers and scored the coup of the year! So this is a fond "so long" to the nifty gang at New World Entertainment and a hearty "hello" to our brand-new owners. You can bet there'll be a whole kaboodle of exciting announcements and dramatic new developments on the way, so stay tuned, hear? As we go marching to greater glory with our enthusiastic new owners, you can count on the sizzlin' Soapbox to clue you in to each new happening. Better fasten your seatbelts, Samurai—the best is yet to come!

Excelsior!

Stan

PROFILES: MARC MCLAURIN



Assistant Editor on: CLOAK AND DAGGER, DOCTOR STRANGE, MARC SPECTOR, MOON KNIGHT, POWER PACK, THE PUNISHER, STRIKEFORCE, MORTUILL, WHAT THE—?, MARVEL FANFAR, SHADOWMASTERS, Associate Editor on: ALPHA FLIGHT

Marvel freelance credits (past): Writing stories for MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS featuring Cloak, the Thing, the Wasp, Blade, Vampire Slayer, the Punisher, Luke Cage, Power Man; penciling a couple of MARVEL UNIVERSE figures and some miscellaneous coloring jobs.

Marvel freelance credits (present): Writing a WHAT THE—? Alpha Flight parody and a MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS collaboration with Mike Javits featuring Firestar; penciling a six-page psycho-killer backup in JUSTICE, and anything else I can get my hands on! Mu-ha-ha-ha-ha!

My hobbies are: A-ah—between reading everything, writing anything, and painting scary things.

The single work of which I am most proud is: My haircut.

My pet peeve is: A-ah—between people who sing out loud with music in public, and people who can't make up their minds.

My place of birth is: Springfield, Massachusetts, city of homes, home boys, and home fires.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Managing to graduate at school alive, sane and with all my digits.

My oddest habit is: Singing out loud with music in public.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Philip Michael Thomas—or Pee-Wee Herman with a deep tropical tan and duds.

The reason I got into comics was: My mother told me not to.

People who knew me in high school thought I was: That's about all they were sure of.

My favorite performer(s) are: Humphrey Bogart, Harrison Ford, Squeeze, UB40, Elvis Costello, and Jerry Mathers as the Beaver.

The last good book I read was: The Tao Te Ching, Calvin and Hobbes, Transcendental.

The last good movie I saw was: Bright Lights, Big City.

The biggest influences on my work include: Charles Dickens, Heinrich Kley, Howard Pyle, and Jack Kirby.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To be a penciler on a regular book while maintaining my hectic schedule as an assistant editor.

The worst part of my job is: Having to punnett bullpennet Harry Campbell into a senseless pulp every month or so. He's not crazy about that either, but somebody's gotta do it.

When nobody's looking I like to: Call Marc Stry's phone in the office next door and make him run to answer it. I call it "motivational aerobics."

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I don't really look like this. It's a clever disguise.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ DAREDEVIL #246
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #44
- ☐ WOLFPACK (Limited Series) #10
- ☐ EXCALIBUR #8
- ☐ SEMPER PARV #6
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #21
- ☐ CONAN THE KING #52
- ☐ STRIKEFORCE: MORTUILL #29
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #50
- ☐ G.I. JOE EUROPEAN MISSIONS #8
- ☐ THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK #1
- ☐ She's back in her own series again! Written and penciled by John Byrne.
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #353
- ☐ SOLO AVENGERS #18

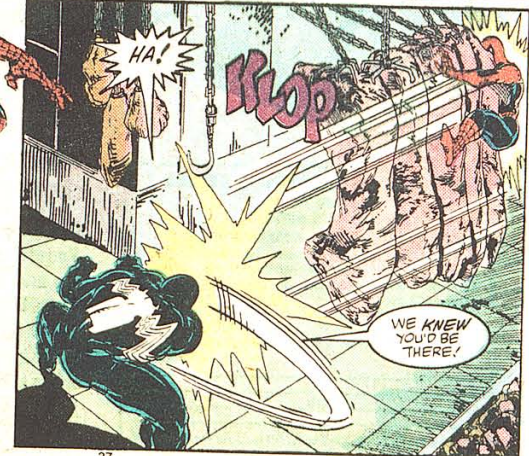
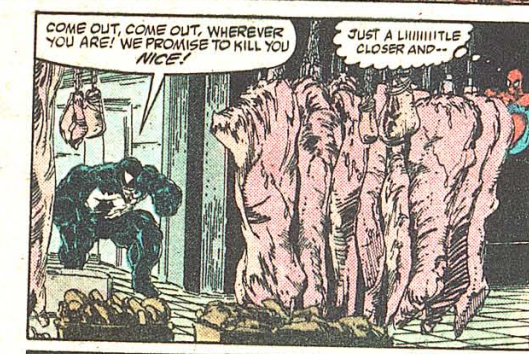
- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #315
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #19
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #70
- ☐ THE NEW MUTANTS #75
- ☐ WOLVERINE #7
- ☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #74
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #123
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #303
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #218
- ☐ G.I. JOE #86
- ☐ THE PUNISHER #19
- ☐ THE SILVER SURFER #23

- ☐ THE SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #7
- ☐ THE UNCANNY X-MEN #244
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #355
- ☐ DAMAGE CONTROL (Limited Series) #1
- ☐ THE TRANSFORMERS #52
- ☐ X-FACTOR #40
- ☐ THOR #403
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #326
- ☐ SPEEDBALL #9
- ☐ DINO-RIDERS #3
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #20

- ☐ IRON MAN #242
- ☐ THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #150
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #33
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #4
- ☐ THE NAM #30
- ☐ POWER PACK #46

- MARVEL MAGAZINES**
- ☐ THE NAM MAGAZINE #10
- ☐ THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #159
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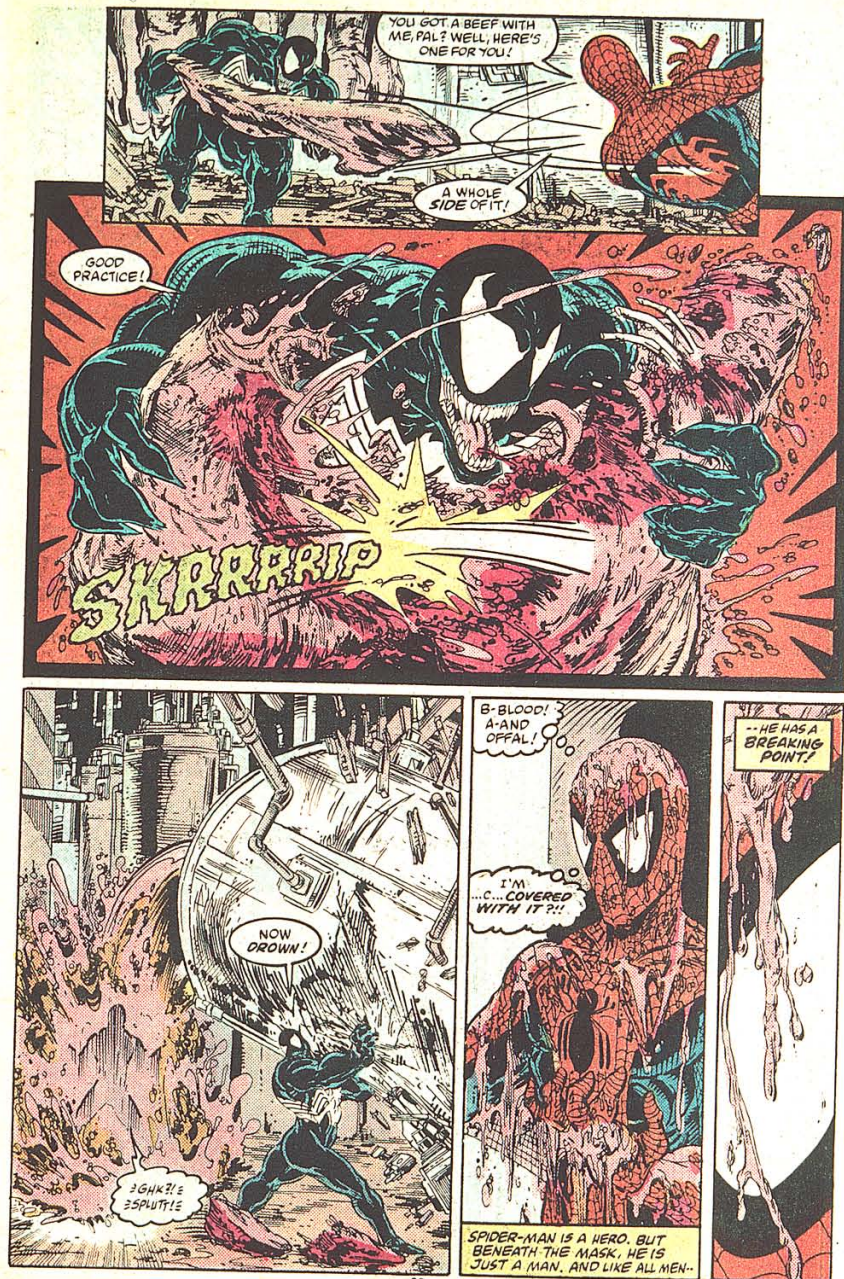
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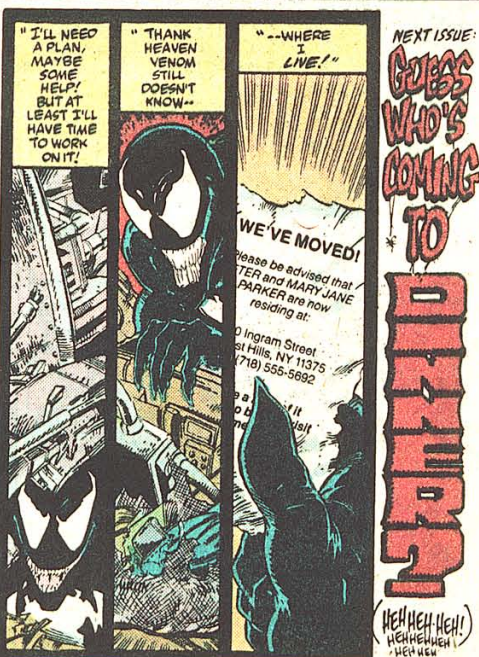
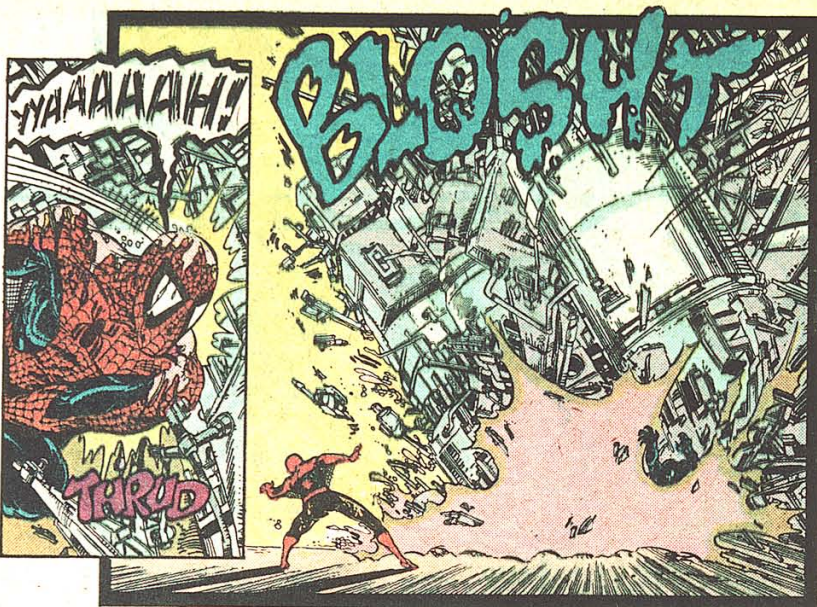
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JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
GLENN HERDLING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

THE RETURN OF SALICRUP'S SECTION



It's been so busy around the Bullpen lately that I haven't had a chance to write my silly little column. For those of you wondering exactly what we've been busy doing, allow me to mention just a couple of big Spider-projects:

First is the hardcover volume of the six-part Kraven saga which ran in all the Spider-titles a couple of years ago. It's called **FEARFUL SYMMETRY: KRAVEN'S LAST HUNT**, and it's been completely recolored by Mike Zeck and Ian Telford. It also features a new cover by Mr. Zeck painted by Phil Zimelman. There's even a nifty introduction by Stan (the man) Lee. Altogether it comes to a truly excellent 160 page package, priced at a truly reasonable \$19.95.

Second is the first in a new series of **SPIDER-MAN GRAPHIC NOVELS**. It's called "Parallel Lives" and it's by Gerry Conway, Alex Saviuk and Andy Mushynsky. It's the perfect book to bring anybody up to date on the life of our non-mutant super hero, starting when Peter and MJ were just babies and continuing all the way to the present. You'll see never before revealed secrets (well, at least one!) and an all-new Doctor Octopus! Both this Graphic Novel and the hardcover should be on sale soon wherever Marvel Masterworks are sold.

I could go on and on, but enough for now. Be here next issue, as well as in the other Spider-titles, for more of the continuing adventures of Jim Salicrup, the Amazing Arschnerd.

Dear Web-Spinners,

I'm back! Okay, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #307—Great!

Todd, terrific cover. You draw one sinister Chameleon. Also, I love the stylized numbers in the direct UPC boxes. By the way, what is that spider doing on Chamey's cuff? My guess is that it's either a tracer or that Todd wants to see if we really notice his work.

Dave, great writing. So, Jonathan Caesar is attracted to MJ? I must admit, Todd draws one hot Mary Jane!

Good job on the ending, guys. It was powerful without being graphic, the shattered glass effect being stronger than any scene that could be done (but you could try to top yourselves!).

John Britt
7350 SW 154th Terrace
Miami, FL 33157

By now you've read the conclusion to that little tale, John. So, did we top ourselves?

Dear People,

Oh, boy! It's the old "villain-comes-back-after-long-time-with-new-origin" theme. Yes, I'm talking about the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #307. Even though this type of story has been overused in recent years, I greatly enjoyed this story. David's words mixed with Todd's pictures to form a wonderful tale of danger and suspense. I just can't get over how terrific Todd McFarlane has consistently been. Even with only two weeks between each issue, he is producing the best art I've ever seen in a Spider-Man book.

I'm glad Marvel is starting to get some real professionals and is getting serious. I haven't been reading much Marvel lately (because of its poor quality and MUTANTS), but I will stick with AMAZING until it becomes as bad as the other Marvel comics (although I really hope you get your act together since I started collecting comics with Marvel).

Tim Callahan
Old State Road
Berkshire, MA 01224

We don't know whether to take your words as praise or criticism, Tim. We're happy that you've been enjoying the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, but you admitted yourself that you haven't been reading much Marvel lately. Why don't you give some of our other titles a chance, and maybe you'll agree that

some of the excellence you've witnessed in the pages of the "non-mutant super hero" has dribbled into them as well.

Dear Jim,

A few months ago, I picked up the 300th issue of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. I've never been much of a fan, but I figured I'd check in and see how he'd been doing in the years since I'd last read one of his adventures. I opened it up and I was immediately impressed by the art. Reading along, I found the story to be equally impressive. By the time I'd finished the comic (Spidey's return to the red and blue costume I grew up with was the clincher), I was hooked!

Now it's seven issues later, and twice a month isn't enough—especially if you keep producing stories like "The Thief Who Stole Himself." This issue had everything—humor, action, and enough loose ends to keep me hanging for the next issue. The Chameleon is going to be one tough villain for Spidey to catch. I like the way you've slowly brought this story along. It's no fun when a villain gets canned in one issue.

Obviously, the major event of this issue was Mary Jane's abduction. David Michelinie's characterization has been so good that I find myself really caring about MJ. Todd McFarlane's pencils haven't hurt either. Those last three panels were horrible—great, but horrible. If this level of quality continues, you'll have me hooked for life.

Here's hoping Jonathan Caesar gets what's coming to him.

Charles Rhett Anderson
105 Liberty Street N.W.
Leesburg, VA 22075

Oh, he got what was coming to him all right, Charles. Unfortunately, even in prison Jonathan Caesar is making things tough for Peter and MJ. As for the Chameleon, "tough" is putting it mildly. Check out the current issues of SPECTACULAR and WEB OF SPIDER-MAN to see what we mean.

Dear Spider-Crew,

The Mary Jane Jonathan Caesar kidnapping storyline will reach its fruition within three issues and I can say that this is entirely unwelcome. MJ has already been kidnapped or threatened more times than I can count since the wedding. Please put it to rest with this one, fellas. It's getting old real quick.

The most welcome surprise was David's handling of the Chameleon. Issue #307 told us what has happened to him throughout his criminal career, yet more importantly, established some grass roots and a motive for the character that hasn't been done for over 25 years. Go ahead and give us the whole story of Whiteface's homeland, reason's for hating the U.S., and the origin of his powers. He's a formidable opponent once again!

I would be extremely neglectful if I didn't mention the awe-inspiring art work of Todd McFarlane. We all enjoyed his revamping of the Incredible Hulk and his move over to Spider-Man has sent the prices of recent back-issues soaring! His unique art style has simply brought a solid look to the comic that has been lacking since Ron Frenz departed. Please, Todd, stay on AMAZING for a long, long, long time! (Let's shoot for #400 as a realistic goal.) You've sent AMAZING back up into my list of top five titles. Thanks in advance for all the great stories!

The plans for fall sound great including the return of the Lizard, the Hobgoblin, Mysterio, and Venom. I also look forward to the return of Styx and Stone. Spidey is finally a must-buy once more!

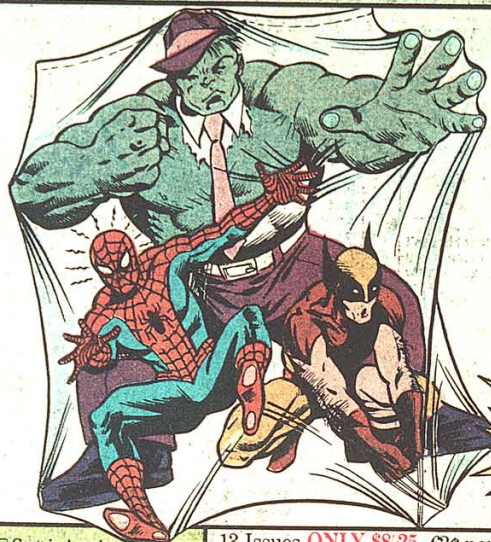
One final note for Todd: I voted for you in the CBG balloting. Good luck next year. Spidey, Michelinie, and McFarlane forever!

Shane Demmitt
Rt. 2, Box 369
Williamsport, MD 21795

Todd thanks you for the vote, Shane. We hope you enjoyed the return of the Lizard, the Hobgoblin, and Mysterio in our recent issues, as well as our current Venom storyline. Speaking of which...

NEXT ISSUE: Spidey vs. Venom, Round 2! Meanwhile, in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #151 Joe Robertson must learn to deal with prison life and Tombstone! In WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #52 we present a special tale about J. Jonah Jameson, captive of the Chameleon, with special guest-artists Frank Springer and John Romita!

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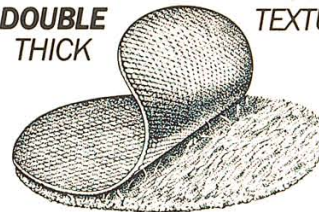
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